



December 25, 2009

Mike & Cindy Gingerich

...ding-a-ling.

After working on our mission's end-of-the-year finances on Monday, as I was driving home from the office, our car broke down. I'm not sure if there really is a good time for a car to break down but I guess this could have been worse. Thankfully it didn't break down last Friday as I was taking some friends to the airport or even on my way to the office that morning at 5 AM. For that matter, it's good that it didn't break down 10 seconds earlier while I was driving through the tunnel. It was as I emerged from the tunnel that I heard a "loud muffler" kind of noise. At first I thought it was another car, and then I realized the noise was coming from under my hood. As this was all dawning on me, the car died and I coasted to the crest of a hill. I had to give myself a little push in order to roll off the busy street and onto the sidewalk, right in front of a "tow away zone" sign. The car would not restart so I texted Mike. I was glad he replied right away. I wanted to make sure he knew that I was a damsel in distress.

As I waited for him to come (he was an hour away), a policeman came and told me that I needed to be towed. Well I could see there was a parking lot at the bottom of the hill, so I asked him if he would help push me there. He gave a push, and I was off. I needed to put on the brakes to make the turn off the street, and when I did, I lost my momentum to get up the slight incline into the lot. Again, fortunately someone was there to help me push the car inside. While I was waiting for Mike, I decided to look through a batch of Christmas cards that I had just picked up at the office. They were from one of our supporting churches back in the USA. The comment on the last card in the stack was something like, "I don't expect you ever have two dull moments in a row!" Well that was certainly true on this morning and I thanked the Lord for the timing of this simple word to cheer me up. It didn't take Mike long to discover the problem was pretty serious, a broken timing belt. This was more than what he could fix with the few tools he had brought along on his motorcycle. (The car is in the shop now waiting to have the motor rebuilt or replaced).

Mike didn't bring an extra helmet along for me to ride home with him, so I was on foot. As I walked the 10 minutes that brought me to another street where I could catch a jeepney home, I passed a family living on the sidewalk on pieces of cardboard. I have seen them at this location before and have wondered why they selected this very spot for their "home". I remember driving past and wondering what kind of Christmas they would be having. As I walked past, I could see and feel so much more. The children seemed happy and with a smile, they wished me a "Merry Christmas!"

It's Christmas time in the city. It doesn't matter if you don't have a house to stay in, or a Christmas tree, or snow, or even a car that runs. Mary was homeless and about to give birth as she bounced along on a donkey following the directives of an oppressive government. But she celebrated in Bethlehem. We are rejoicing in Manila at the birth of our Savior.

We are blessed. We are blessed to be in the place where God has called us to be. We are blessed to be together as a family this Christmas. We are blessed to have our oldest doing well in college that we don't have to pay for. We are blessed to have friends and family back in the States who support us faithfully with prayer and financial support. We are most blessed to have a Savior and to know the true meaning of Christmas.

Another blessing that we just learned of this week is that a donor in the US has committed to give matching funds up to \$50,000 for the next year for our birthing center building project. So now we are praying that the money will come in to be matched. In November the school that sends nursing students to our birthing home also gave us a large gift of \$10,000. That has been the boost we needed to get moving to the next step of preparing to pour the floor for the main level. All the foundation work and the walk in basement are nearly complete. It looks like if we can raise \$50,000 to go along with the matching gift of \$50,000, we can complete most of the structural work on the three story project. Please pray with us for God's provision during the next year as every gift large or small will help twice as much in completing the new birthing clinic for God's glory. We are excited to see what He is going to do.

Thanks so much for all your help,

Cindy for the Gingeriches



If you would like to give toward our support you can make checks payable to Action International Ministries, P. O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 *or* 3015 A 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1, Canada. Note that your check is for support of the Gingeriches.